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The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

28 August 2018

Mr Adam Crouch MP
Chair
Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Crouch

RE: INQUIRY INTO COSMETIC HEALTH SERVICE COMPLAINTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Thank you again to you and the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission (the Committee) for inviting both me and my colleague Dr Ron Feiner to give evidence on 2 August 2018 on behalf of the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (the College).

At that hearing, both Dr Feiner and I took some questions on notice. In short, the questions which we took on notice can be summarised as:

- how many people have been asked to leave the College?
- how many people have been suspended by the College? and,
- how many people have been expelled by the College.

The below information addresses these three questions.

The College has conducted 15 investigations regarding its Fellows for alleged breaches of the College's Code of Practice (the Code). These investigations resulted in five Fellows leaving the College.

One alleged breach was investigated and found that the Fellow was not in the wrong. This was consistent with the findings of a separate investigation undertaken by the Medical Board of Australia. Accordingly, no further action was taken against the Fellow.

Eight of the alleged breaches were against the advertising section of the Code. All of these allegations were upheld and all were remedied without suspension or expulsion.



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Four of the alleged breaches resulted from patient complaints. In all four cases, the Fellows resigned before investigations were completed.

The two remaining alleged breaches were investigated and subsequently upheld. In both of these cases, the College instigated proceedings to expel the Fellows from the College.

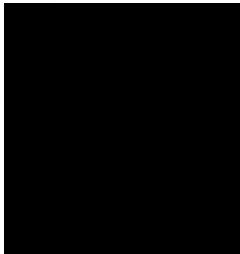
One Fellow was expelled by the College in 2006. However, this was disputed and the Supreme Court of New South Wales overturned the College's expulsion of the Fellow. The Fellow has since retired.

Expulsion proceedings were brought against another Fellow by the College in 2007. Before these proceedings were completed, the Fellow resigned from the College.

I trust this information is useful to the Committee.

Thank you again to you and the Committee for its important work. We are ready and willing to assist the Committee further in its inquiries.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ron Bezic
Immediate Past President
The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery